

Intermediary Foundation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

NOTE

House of Representatives of the Staten-Generaal
Chairman
Drs.MA Martin Bosma
PO Box 20018
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Subject: Situation in Gaza
Mierlo, July 15, 2024

I urgently request the chairman of the House of Representatives of the Staten-Generaal to do everything to inform MPs and factions of the political parties about this letter.

After voting, the Members of the House of Representatives rejected a Motion by Member Van Baarle DENK (No. 2907 kst-21501-02-2907 ISSN 0921 - 7371 The Hague 2024 General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council MOTION BY MEMBER VAN BAARLE Proposed 23 May 2024) Following the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant against Netanyahu on Dutch soil.

On May 27, I sent a letter to the members of the House of Representatives. We will not get any further with the freewheeling issue of Israel vs Gaza! The recent decision of the International Court of Justice ordering Israel to immediately halt its military offensive in Rafah, after recognizing genocide as a plausible risk, and following the request of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants for Israeli leaders on allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity. "In this context, the continued arms transfers to Israel may be viewed as knowingly providing assistance to operations in violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law, and may result in profits from such assistance."

States and companies - including the State of the Netherlands - must immediately end arms deliveries to Israel, otherwise they risk responsibility for human rights violations.

The transfer of arms and ammunition to Israel could constitute a serious violation of human rights and international humanitarian law and risk making the state complicit in international crimes, possibly including genocide, UN experts said today, reiterating their demand for to stop transfers immediately.

*In line with recent calls from the Human Rights Council and UN independent experts for states to cease the sale, transfer and diversion of weapons, ammunition and other military equipment to Israel, arms manufacturers should supply them to Israel - including
BAE Systems, Boeing, Caterpillar, General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman,
Oshkosh, Rheinmetall AG, Rolls-Royce Power Systems, RTX and ThyssenKrupp – also
make*

an end to transfers, even if carried out under existing export licenses.

"By sending weapons, parts, components and ammunition to Israeli forces, these companies risk being complicit in serious violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law," the experts said.

An end to transfers must also include indirect transfers through intermediary countries that could ultimately be used by Israeli forces, especially in the ongoing attacks on Gaza.

The UN experts said that arms companies should systematically and periodically conduct enhanced human rights due diligence to ensure that their products are not used in ways that violate international human rights and international humanitarian law.

Financial institutions that invest in these arms companies are also being held accountable. Investors such as Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung, Amundi Asset Management, Bank of America, BlackRock, Capital Group, Causeway Capital Management, Citigroup, Fidelity Management & Research, INVESCO Ltd, JP Morgan Chase, Harris Associates, Morgan Stanley, Norges Bank Investment Management, Newport Group, Raven'swing Asset Management, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance, State Street Corporation, Union Investment Privatfonds, The Vanguard Group, Wellington and Wells Fargo & Company are urged to take action. Failure to prevent or mitigate their business relationships with these arms manufacturers who transfer weapons to Israel could result in the disappearance of those directly linked to and contributing to human rights violations, with consequences for complicity in potential atrocities, the experts said. "Initiating, maintaining weapons, aggravate and prolong armed conflicts, as well as other forms of oppression. Therefore, the availability of weapons is an essential condition for the commission of war crimes and human rights violations, including by private arms companies," the spokesperson said. The experts. They said the ongoing Israeli military onslaught is characterized by indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilian populations and infrastructure, including extensive use of explosive and incendiary weapons in densely populated areas,

as well as through the destruction and damage of essential and life-sustaining essential weapons. civilian infrastructure, including housing and shelters, health, education, water and sanitation. These attacks have resulted in more than 37,000 deaths in Gaza and 84,000 injuries. Of these deaths and injuries, an estimated 70 percent are women and children. Today, children in Gaza represent the largest group of amputees in the world, due to serious injuries sustained during the war. These operations have also resulted in serious damage to the environment and climate. "The need for an arms embargo on Israel and for investors to take decisive action is more urgent than ever, especially in light of the obligations of states and the responsibilities of corporations under the Geneva Conventions, the Genocide Convention, international human rights treaties and the UN

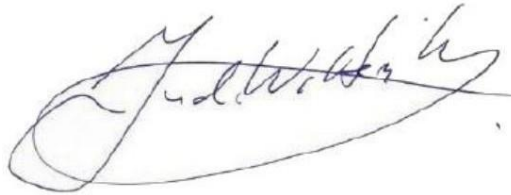
Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights," said the UN experts. The experts paid tribute to the continued work of journalists who have documented and reported the devastating impact of these weapons systems on civilians in Gaza, and human rights defenders and lawyers, among other stakeholders, who are working to hold states and companies accountable for the transfer of weapons to Israel. They have also discussed these issues with states and with the companies and investors involved.

I hereby request that my letter of May 27, 2024 be regarded as repeated and inserted.

IFUD of Human Rights

Chair

JP van den Wittenboer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JP van den Wittenboer', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

For questions regarding UN independent experts, please also contact Dharisha Indraguptha (dharisha.indraguptha@un.org) or John Newland (john.newland@un.org)